

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OLC 75-0684/A

CRC, 6/12/2003

Honorable James O. Eastland, Chairman
Subcommittee on Internal Security
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your letter of 26 March 1975 and the enclosed publications describing the impact of the marihuana-hashish epidemic on personnel security in the United States Government represents a significant public service.

The conclusions of your investigation confirm a premise which this Agency has always followed--that the regular and sustained use of marihuana and hashish constitutes a security and health hazard to our personnel.

As you suggested, I am referring the publications to our security office and other interested offices for further study and appropriate action.

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby
Director

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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNAL SECURITY
(PURSUANT TO S. RES. 368, 81ST CONGRESS; AND SEC. 11, S. RES. 32, 92D CONGRESS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 26, 1975

The Honorable William E. Colby
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Colby:

In line with its long standing interest in the problem of improved security in government agencies, the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security last May and June held extensive hearings on the "Marihuana-Hashish Epidemic and Its Impact on United States Security." For the purpose of these hearings, the Subcommittee brought together 21 distinguished medical scientists and psychiatrists, from 7 different countries. The scientific quality of these hearings is attested to by the fact that Science magazine last August devoted the better part of two articles to summarizing the highlights of the testimony presented.

Evidence presented at these hearings suggests that marihuana and hashish may become problems of increasing concern in government departments, especially those departments where sensitive information and operations make strong personnel security programs essential.

It would be dangerous to assume that the use of cannabis, which has become so widespread in our society in recent years, has not in some way penetrated government departments. On the other hand, information on the effects of cannabis which might assist government security officers in formulating their own guidelines has thus far not been compiled or systematized, to my knowledge, by any government agency. Because of this, I have had the Subcommittee staff pull together from our 450-page hearing record key excerpts from the scientific testimony that have a direct bearing on the question of psychological stability, judgment, and other factors which must be taken into consideration by security officers.

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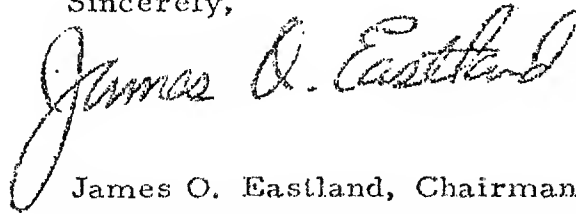
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I am enclosing herewith, for possible transmittal to your security officers, a compilation of these excerpts, as well as the complete text of our hearing record. It is my belief that security officers will find this material a useful source of information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James O. Eastland". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

James O. Eastland, Chairman
Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security

Enclosures

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